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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 079688
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:GWSCOTT:JJ
APPROVED BY S:BTWADDELL
AF/E:RSPOST
AF:WESCHAUFELE
S/S - MR. BRIDGES
----------090023Z 003681 /14
O P 082318Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079688

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SU, CG, NI, AO

SUBJECT: SUDANESE FOREIGN MINISTER'S VIEW OF ZAIRE
DEVELOPMENTS

1. THIS TELEGRAM IS BASED ON AN UNCLEARED MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION AND IS SUBJECT TO REVISION. DR. MANSOUR KHALID, FOREIGN MINISTER OF SUDAN, MET WITH SECRETARY VANCE ON APRIL 6.
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2. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S QUESTION, DR. KHALID SAID ZAIRE WAS A BAD SITUATION MADE WORSE BECAUSE OF THE NECESSITY THAT THE U.S. DEFEND MOBUTU, A MAN OTHERWISE INDEFENSIBLE. KHALID ADMITTED HE DID NOT KNOW HOW THE MOBUTU REGIME COULD BE EFFECTIVELY SUPPORTED. IF THE KATANGAN GENDARMES WERE AN AUTHENTIC ZAIRE MOVEMENT,

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HE WOULD NOT OBJECT TO THEIR SUCCESS, BUT THE PRESENCE OF A FOREIGN SUPPORTING ELEMENT REQUIRED ONE TO BACK MOBUTU'S GOVERNMENT. SUDAN WOULD THEREFORE SUPPORT THE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT IN THE OAU.

3. THE SECRETARY SAID THE U.S. HAD GIVEN SOME ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT AND WOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO, BUT IT WAS DISCOURAGING TO SEE THAT THE ZAIRE ARMY WAS UNWILLING TO FIGHT.

4. THE SECRETARY MENTIONED THE EFFORT TO FIND A RESOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM THROUGH THE NIGERIANS. KHALID AGREED THAT A RESOLUTION MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN THE AFRICAN FRAMEWORK IF NETO COULD BE BROUGHT TO COOPERATE SINCE HE, WHILE NOT NECESSARILY THE CAUSE OF THE KATANGAN DISPUTE, HAD WAYS OF CONTROLLING MANY OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE079688
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GWSCOTT:JJ
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770123-0985
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770472/aaaaclcm.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8168bca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2853201
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUDANESE FOREIGN MINISTER\'S VIEW OF ZAIRE DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, SU, CG, NI, AO, (KHALID, MANSOUR), (VANCE, CYRUS R), (MOBUTU SESE SEKO)
To: KHARTOUM KINSHASA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8168bca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009